

Section IID:

Availability of Funds and Request for Applications

Fiscal Year 2003 Family Violence Prevention and Services Program

Discretionary Funds Program

ACTION: Announcement of availability of funds and request for competitive applications under the Office of Community Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVSP).

SUMMARY: The Office of Community Services (OCS) announces its Family Violence Prevention and Services Discretionary Funds Program for fiscal year (FY) 2003. Funding for grants under this announcement is authorized by the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, Public Law 102-295, as amended, governing discretionary programs for family violence prevention and services.

Dates: The closing time and date for receipt of applications is 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time Zone), August 11, 2003. Mailed or hand carried applications received after 4:30 p.m. on the closing date will be classified as late.

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE (CFDA) NUMBER: 93.592.

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Part A: Background Information

1. Legislative Authority
2. Overview
3. Project Goals
4. Definition of Terms

Part B: Priority Areas and Application Prerequisites

1. Priority Areas
2. Application Prerequisites

Part C: Program Project and Evaluation Criteria

1. Program Priority Areas
 - a. Priority Area FV 03-01
 - (1) Background
 - (2) Purpose
 - (3) Eligible Applicants
 - b. Priority Area FV 03-02
 - (1) Background
 - (2) Project Considerations
 - (3) Minimum requirements
 - (4) Eligible Applicants
 - c. Priority Area FV 03-03
 - (1) Purpose

(2) Project Considerations

(3) Eligible Applicants

2. Evaluation Criteria

Part A: Background Information

1. Legislative Authority

Title III of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984, (Pub.L.98-457,42 U.S.C. 10401, et seq.) is entitled the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (the Act). The Act was first implemented in FY 1986, was reauthorized for fiscal years 1996 through 2000 by Public Law 103-322, the Violent Crime Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Amendment of 1996.” The Act was most recently amended by the “Violence Against Women Act of 2000” (Pub. L. 16-386, 10/28/2000).

The Act assists States in efforts to increase public awareness about and prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents; and provides for technical assistance and training relating to family violence programs to States, local public agencies (including law enforcement agencies, courts, legal, social service, and health care professionals), nonprofit private organizations, and other persons seeking such assistance.

2. Overview

The Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services is primarily interested in providing funds for projects that can become prototypes of more effective collaborative efforts to eliminate domestic violence. Family Violence Discretionary Funds are not intended to provide funds for ongoing services or to serve as a supplemental source of funds for local activities in need of operating subsidies.

3. Project Goals

The goals of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program FY 2003 areas of priority are: (a) to provide employment training for victims of domestic violence; support the development of collaborative domestic violence/anti-poverty initiatives; and provide support to efforts underway at the State, Tribal, county, and/or local level; (b) develop a replicable model to reduce teenage and adolescent violence; and (c) to develop and expand collaborative and advocacy relationship skills in order to reduce instances of domestic violence.

4. Definition of Terms

Family Violence – Any act or threatened act of violence, including any forceful detention of an individual, (a) which results or threatens to result in physical injury; and (b) is committed by a person against another individual (including an elderly person) to whom such person is or was related by blood or marriage or otherwise legally related or with whom such person is or was lawfully residing.

Domestic Violence – For the purposes of this program, the definition is the same as the definition of family violence.

Indian Tribe and Tribal Organization – The same meanings given such terms in subsections (b) and (c), respectively, of section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act.

Shelter – The provision of temporary refuge and related assistance in compliance with applicable State law and regulation governing the provision, on a regular basis, of

shelter, safe homes, meals, and related assistance to victims of family violence and their dependents.

Related Assistance – The provision of direct assistance to victims of family violence and their dependents for the purpose of preventing further violence, helping such victims to gain access to civil and criminal courts and other community services, facilitating the efforts of such victims to make decisions concerning their lives in the interest of safety, and assisting such victims in healing from the effects of the violence. Related assistance shall include:

- Prevention services such as outreach and prevention services for victims and their children, employment training, parenting and other educational services for victims and their children, preventive health services within domestic violence programs (including nutrition, disease prevention, exercise, and prevention of substance abuse), domestic violence prevention programs for school age children, family violence public awareness campaigns, and violence prevention counseling services to abusers;
- Counseling with respect to family violence, counseling or other supportive services by peers individually or in groups, and referral to community social services;
- Transportation, technical assistance with respect to obtaining financial assistance under Federal and State programs, and referrals for appropriate health care services (including alcohol and drug abuse treatment), but shall not include reimbursement for any health care services;
- Legal advocacy to provide victims with information and assistance through the civil and criminal courts, and legal assistance; or

- Children’s counseling and support services, and childcare services for children who are victims of family violence or the dependents of such victims.

States – Each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and, except as otherwise provided, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Part B: Priority Areas and Application Prerequisites

1. Priority Areas

We expect to fund three priority areas in FY 2003:

- a. FV-03-01 – Resource Development and Employment Training Opportunities for Victims of Domestic Violence
- b. FV-03-02 - Violence Prevention in Intimate Relations Outside the Bounds of Marriage: Youth Dating Violence
- c. FV-03-03 - Field Initiated Domestic Violence Collaborations Advocating Relationship Skills Education to Reduce Instances of Domestic Violence

2. Application Prerequisites - General Applicant Eligibility (see priority area descriptions for specific prerequisites):

- a. An eligible applicant must submit a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Interagency Agreement (IA) between and among collaborating organizations. The MOU or IA must identify the projected role and responsibilities of each of the proposed

participant organizations in the development and implementation of the project and the level of commitment to provide assistance and services to victims of domestic violence.

b. Number of Awards and Availability of Funds: The total amount of funds available for grants is \$1.8 Million. From this amount the following grants will be made by priority area: Priority Area- FV-03-01 – 2 awards @\$365,000 each; Priority Area FV-03-02 – 1 award @ \$250,000; Priority Area- FV-03-03 – 9 awards @ \$100,000 each.

c. Project and Budget Periods: This announcement is inviting applicants for project periods up to two (2) years for Priority Area – FV-03-01. Awards, on a competitive basis, will be for a one-year Budget Period. Applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the one-year budget period but within the two year project period will be entertained in subsequent years on a noncompetitive basis, subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the grantee and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the Government.

The project and budget period for Priority Areas – FV-03-02 and FV-03-03 is 17 months.

d. Matching Requirement: Applicants must provide at least 25 percent of the total approved cost of the project. The total cost of the project is the sum of the ACF share and the non-Federal share. The non-Federal share may be met by cash or in-kind contributions, although applicants are encouraged to meet their match through cash contributions. Therefore, a project requesting \$150,000 in Federal funds (based on an award of \$150,000 per budget period) must include a match of at least \$50,000, 25

percent of the total approved project cost (for a total budget of \$200,000). Applicants will be held accountable for the commitments of non-Federal resources even if over the amount of the required match. Failure to provide the required amounts will result in a disallowance of Federal match.

e. Length of Application: The length of the application, including the application forms and all the attachments, should not exceed 60 pages. A page is a single side of an 8 ½"x 11" sheet of paper. Applicants are requested not to send pamphlets, maps, brochures or other printed material along with their application as these pose photocopy difficulties. These materials, if submitted, will not be included in the review process if they exceed the 60-page limit. Each page of the application will be counted to determine the total length.

Part C: Program Project Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

1. Program Priority Areas

a. Priority Area FV 03-01 Resource Development and Employment Training

Opportunities for Victims of Domestic Violence

(1). Background

Domestic violence is particularly devastating to women with limited incomes. Some of these women continue to deal with ongoing violence and oppression and still others, even though they have escaped violence, are coping with the longer-term effects of being a battered woman. Many of the physical injuries sustained by abused women seem to cause medical difficulties, as women grow older. Arthritis, hypertension

and heart disease have been identified by battered women as directly caused or aggravated by domestic violence early in their adult lives (Corrao, 1985). At the same time these women are struggling against the harsh realities of poverty including insecure housing, insufficient income, inadequacy of health care and often bias and discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or education. Because poor women have fewer options to escape domestic violence and face considerably more barriers to economic security, safety is harder to achieve.

There is a well-documented connection between domestic violence and women's experience (successful/unsuccessful) in work and training. These studies show a complicated relationship between women's experience of abuse and their involvement in welfare and work.

Several studies (Raphael, 1999; Tolman and Rosen, 1999 and Moore and Selkove, 1999) have found that, in general, women who have experienced even recent domestic violence are interested in working and are as likely to be employed as those who have not. However, some women have partners who actively interfere with their efforts to work or attend school or training: such women have difficulty sustaining their participation in school and training. Similarly, women whose partners have threatened to kill them or harm their children are more likely than others who report current abuse, to have reduced work involvement.

Clearly, when examining employment-training opportunities for victims of domestic violence, one must consider the complex relationship between welfare and domestic violence. Several studies relating to abused women's work experience and the connections between abuse and work (Barusch, et al., 1999; Allard, et.al., 1997; Lloyd and Taluc, 1999; Carry, 2000; and Smith, 2000) show that, while experience of

domestic violence can make “sustained employment” more difficult, there are many other factors that are influential as well. Education, work experience, physical and mental health problems, lack of transportation, inadequate housing, child care access, and discrimination related to race and ethnicity have all been found to affect employment. Thus, domestic violence may have more of an impact on women’s options than the quality of the employment they obtain.

When abused women have been questioned directly about their barriers to work, women responded that childcare, transportation, and the lack of job skills were major barriers (Merril et al., 1999; and Sable, Libbus, Huneke and Arger, 1999). For battered women and their children to be safe, they must be free from the violence and control of abusive partners and financially able to meet their basic human needs. Strategies that reduce the threat of physical violence without offering meaningful options for housing, food, clothing, health care, and an adequate income fail to provide battered women the resources they need to build a life without violence.

(2). Purpose

The purpose and objective of this priority area is to support the planning, development, and implementation of a comprehensive, replicable effort designed to address the resource needs and employment training opportunities for victims of abuse and their dependents. It is anticipated that the initial design of this collaborative domestic violence/anti-poverty initiative will provide an economic development strategy that provides for both resource and asset development.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate collaboration among entities that will ensure the development of resources to meet the short-term economic needs of victims of domestic violence (e.g., employment training efforts, post-secondary training

programs, child support, housing services, health care, and TANF assistance). In support of the goal of advancing the economic security of domestic violence victims, the applicant should propose a process and procedure to support the achievement of longer-term goals.

(3). Eligible Applicants

State, Tribal and local domestic violence organizations, public and private non-profit organizations, including faith-based and community organizations, and public and private agencies including anti-poverty agencies.

Collaborative partners may be domestic violence service providers, community action agencies, community economic development corporations, public and private organizations and agencies providing or developing affordable housing, and coalitions of public and private organizations addressing basic human needs and providing job training, and faith-based programs working with low-income communities.

Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status in its application at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by providing:

- a. A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code;
- b. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;
- c. A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals;

- d. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status;
- e. Any of the items in the paragraphs immediately above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant is a local non-profit affiliate.

Private, non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit with their applications the optional survey located under "Grants Manuals & Forms" at:

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm

This initiative proposes to fund two grants not to exceed \$365,000 per grant for replicable models established to connect victims of domestic violence with employment training opportunities and other resources leading to economic security and independence.

b. Priority Area FV-03-02 Violence Prevention in Intimate Relations Outside the Bounds of Marriage: Youth Dating Violence

(1). Background

In 1995, domestic violence was recognized as one of the foremost public health concerns in the U.S. by Congress. Since 1997, violence committed by adolescents has received significant attention due, in part, to a number of high profile school shootings (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999). Teen dating violence, however, has received comparably little attention, despite its prevalence and the severity of its impact. Recognizing that this gap exists, researchers and practitioners

have gradually begun to focus on adolescent males who perpetrate dating and domestic violence.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Center for Disease Control (CDC), has an active interest in dating violence, and through several research and evaluation projects offers the following definition of dating violence and its scope: Dating violence may be defined as the perpetration or threat of an act of violence by at least one member of an unmarried couple on the other member within the context of dating or courtship. This violence encompasses any form of sexual assault, physical violence, and verbal or emotional abuse.

Scope of the Problem: Violent behavior that takes place in the context of dating or courtship is not a rare event. Below are relevant statistics. Please note that estimates vary because studies and surveys use different methods and definitions of dating violence.

- A review of dating violence research among male and female high school students, found that prevalence rates of non-sexual, courtship violence range from 9 percent to 65 percent, depending on whether threats and emotional or verbal aggression were included in the definition (Sugarman & Hotalerg, 1989).
- Data from a study of 8th and 9th grade male and female students indicated that 25 percent had been victims of non-sexual dating violence and 8 percent had been victims of sexual dating violence (Fositee, et. al., 1996).
- Summarizing many studies, the average prevalence rate for non-sexual dating violence is 22 percent among male and female high school students and 32 percent among college students. Females are somewhat more likely than males to report being victims of violence (Sugarman/Hotalerg, 1989).

- In a national study of college students, 27.5 percent of the women surveyed said that they suffered rape or attempted rape at least once since age 14. Only 5 percent of those experiences were reported to the police. The term “hidden rape” has emerged because this survey and many other studies found that sexual assaults are seldom reported to the police (Koss, 1987/Kilpatrick 1985).
- Over half of a representative sample of more than 1,000 female students at a large urban university had experienced some form of unwanted sex. Twelve percent of these acts were perpetrated by casual dates and 43 percent by steady dating partners (Abbey, 1996).
- Studies of college students and high school students suggest that both males and females inflict and receive dating violence in equal proportion, but the motivation for violence by women is more often for defensive purposes. Other studies have found that women and girls were victims of dating violence twice as often as men and boys, and that females suffer significantly more injury than males (Arias, 1987; White, 1991; Makepeace, 1996).
- Nearly half of the 500,000 rapes and sexual assaults reported to the police by women of all ages were committed by friends or acquaintances; 80 percent to 95 percent of the rapes that occur on college campuses are committed by someone known to the victim (Abbey, 1996, 1991).

Juvenile batterer intervention programs have been developed in several jurisdictions across the United States. The University of North Carolina has a longitudinal evaluation underway entitled, “Reducing Dating Violence.”

In this evaluation the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will collaborate with the Johnston County public schools, the Johnston County Health Department, and

Harbor, Inc., a community-based organization. Selected 8th and 9th grade students in Johnston County will receive classroom instruction about gender stereotypes, conflict management skills, and social norms that contribute to dating violence. Classroom instructions will be supplemented with student-conducted dramatic performances. In addition, parents, police workers, and other key individuals in the community will be trained to be better resources for youths who seek assistance about teenage dating violence. Half of the middle and high schools in the county will be randomly selected as intervention schools. The 1200 students in grades 8 and 9 attending those schools will receive instruction in the topics listed above as part of their health education course. The 1200 students attending other schools in the county will be influenced only by the community activities (i.e., training of parents, police workers, and other key individuals). All 8th and 9th grade students will complete surveys concerning knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors relating to dating violence prior to, one month after, and one year after the classroom instruction. From these surveys, researchers will determine the difference in knowledge, attitudes (gender stereotyping), and behaviors (violence dating behavior and termination of violence dating relationships) among students in the intervention and control schools.)

(2). Project Considerations

A proposed model, designed to both understand, identify, and reduce youth dating violence as a preventive initiative must consider and address the following issues, in addition to presenting a manageable methodology and approach to this priority area:

- The reciprocity of the violence behavior in adolescent relationships;

- The types of violence, as well as the relationship of substance abuse and sexual behavior;
- The role of jealousy in relationships;
- The degree of confidentiality or the lack thereof;
- Analysis/review of existing representative surveys;
- Need for a consensus as to what constitutes a dating relationship or dating violence;
- Improved methods of how best to gather sensitive information from adolescents; and
- Why some teens want the violence to end but want to remain in the relationship.

(3). Minimum requirements

As a minimum requirement, the proposed model should provide a discussion and analysis of identified promising practices and provide for the measurement of objective achievement in the operation of the model. A final report consisting of conclusions and policy implications for practitioners and agency directors is anticipated.

(4). Eligible Applicants

State and local domestic violence agencies, Institutions of Higher Learning, and non-profit agencies, including faith-based and community organizations.

Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status in its application at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by providing:

- a. A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code;

- b. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;
- c. A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals;
- d. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status;
- e. Any of the items in the paragraphs immediately above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant is a local non-profit affiliate.

Private, non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit with their applications the optional survey located under "Grants Manuals & Forms" at:

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm

This initiative proposes to fund one grant not to exceed \$250,000.

**c. Priority Area FV-03-03 Field Initiated Domestic Violence Collaborations
Advocating Relationship Skills Education to Reduce Instances of Domestic
Violence**

(1). The purpose of this priority area is to support the development of collaborative relationship skills and parenting education programs that focus on the prevention and identification of domestic violence. The assumption is that specific skill building for children and adults and parenting education efforts will assist in breaking the cycle of learned violence by enabling individuals to avoid relationships that may have

abusive potentials. This priority area allows for the submission of project applications intended to affect improvements in preventive education for adults as well as age-appropriate programs for youth. This area also allows State agencies, state domestic violence coalitions, and Indian Tribes working to expand innovative approaches to reduce the incidence of domestic violence. Applicants are expected to collaborate with other public and private agencies concerned with the prevention of domestic violence and should document these relationships through interagency agreements and commitments to share resources and expertise.

The expectations for the collaborations would be a thorough assessment of their skill building and parental education efforts, and anticipated impact on the reduction of domestic violence. Post-activity efforts should document an increased awareness of domestic violence on the part of program participants.

(2). Project Considerations

- Develop evaluation protocols to identify the correlation between preventive educational programs relationship skill building and the reduction of domestic violence.
- Propose collaborative education programs with private and voluntary sector organizations for the purpose of providing relationship skills and parenting education for adults and children.
- Utilize the expertise and involve state-wide, metropolitan-wide, county-wide or reservation-wide service programs who have advocates for services to abused victims and their dependents; and
- Show active support through commitment and collaboration letters of relevant state and local agencies, willing to participate in the prevention activities.

- Promote the expansion of efforts of a State and agency, State domestic violence coalitions, or Indian Tribes to provide relationship skills and parenting education programs.
- Involve health practitioners, mental health personnel, and domestic violence prevention advocated in addressing screening protocols, and to assist in identifying the long-term impacts of the prevention programs.

(3). Eligible Applicants

State and local public agencies, FVPSA State grantees, State domestic violence coalitions, Federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, public and private non-profit agencies (including faith-based and community organizations), and domestic violence advocacy organizations. The MOU must identify the projected role and responsibilities of the proposed participant organizations in the development of the project and the level of commitment to provide assistance and services to victims of domestic violence and the organizations working on their behalf.

Any non-profit organization submitting an application must submit proof of its non-profit status in its application at the time of submission. The non-profit agency can accomplish this by providing:

- a. A reference to the applicant organization's listing in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) most recent list of tax-exempt organizations described in the IRS Code;
- b. A copy of a currently valid IRS tax exemption certificate;
- c. A statement from a State taxing body, State attorney general, or other appropriate State official certifying that the applicant organization has a non-profit status and that none of the net

- earnings accrue to any private shareholders or individuals;
- d. A certified copy of the organization's certificate of incorporation or similar document that clearly establishes non-profit status;
 - e. Any of the items in the paragraphs immediately above for a State or national parent organization and a statement signed by the parent organization that the applicant is a local non-profit affiliate.

Private, non-profit organizations are encouraged to submit with their applications the optional survey located under "Grants Manuals & Forms" at:

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofs/forms.htm

This initiative proposes to fund 9 grants not to exceed \$100,000 per grant.

2. Evaluation Criteria

a. Evaluation Criterion I: Approach (Numerical Weight: 30 points)

The extent to which the application outlines a sound and workable plan of action pertaining to the scope of the project, and details about how the proposed work will be accomplished; relates each task to the objectives and identifies the key staff member who will be the lead person; provides a chart indicating the timetable for completing each task, the lead person, and the time committed; cites factors which might accelerate or decelerate the work, giving acceptable reasons for taking this approach as opposed to others; describes and supports any unusual features of the project, such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social

and community involvement; and provides for projections of the accomplishments to be achieved.

The extent to which, when applicable, the application describes the evaluation methodology that will be used to determine if the needs identified and discussed are being met and if the results and benefits identified are being achieved.

b. Evaluation Criterion II: Organizational Profiles (Numerical Weight: 30)

Adequacy of resources – Specify the adequacy of the available facilities, resources, and organizational experience with regard to the tasks of the proposed project. List the financial, physical, and other resources to be provided by other profit and non-profit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. Explain how these organizations will participate in the day-to-day operations of the project:

Budget – Relate the proposed budget to the level of effort required in obtaining project objectives and providing a cost/benefit analysis. Demonstrate that the project's costs are reasonable in view of the anticipated results.

Collaborative efforts – Discuss in detail and provide documentation for any collaborative or coordinated efforts with other agencies or organizations. Identify these agencies or organizations and explain how their participation will enhance the project. Letters from these agencies and organizations discussing the specifics of their commitment must be included in the application.

Authorship – The authors of the application must be clearly identified together with their current relationship to the applicant organization and any future project role they may have if the project is funded.

Staffing pattern – Describe the staffing pattern for the proposed project, clearly linking responsibilities to project tasks and specifying the contributions to be made by key staff.

Competence of staff – Describe the qualifications of the project team including any experiences working on similar projects. Also, describe the variety of skills to be used, relevant educational background, and the demonstrated ability to produce final results that are comprehensible and usable. One or two pertinent paragraphs on each key member are preferred to resumes. However, resumes may be included in the ten pages allowed for attachments/appendices.

Adequacy of Resources – Specify the adequacy of the available facilities, resources and organizational experience with regard to the tasks of the proposed project. List the financial, physical, and other resources to be provided by other profit or non-profit organizations. Explain how these organizations will participate in the day-to-day operations of the project.

c. Evaluation Criterion III: Objectives and Need for the Project (Numerical Weight: 20 points)

(1). Need (Numerical Weight: 10 points)

The extent to which the need for the project and the problems it will address have national and local significance; the applicability of the project to coordination efforts by national, Tribal, State and local governmental and non-profit agencies (including faith-based and community organizations); its ultimate impact on domestic violence prevention services and intervention efforts, policies and practice; the relevance of other documentation as it relates to the applicant's knowledge of the need for the project; and

the identification of the specific topic or program area to be served by the project. Maps and other graphic aids may be attached.

(2). Goals and Objectives (Numerical Weight: 10 points)

The extent to which the specific goals and objectives have national or local significance, the clarity of the goals and objectives as they relate to the identified need for and the overall purpose of the project, and their applicability to policy and practice. The provision of a detailed discussion of the objectives and the extent to which the objectives are realistic, specific, and achievable.

d. Evaluation Criterion IV: Results or Benefits Expected (Numerical Weight: 20 points)

The extent to which the application identifies the results and benefits to be derived; the extent to which they are consistent with the objectives of the application; the extent to which the application indicates the anticipated contributions to policy, practice, and theory; and the extent to which the proposed project costs are reasonable in view of the expected results. The extent to which the application has identified, in specific terms, the results and benefits specific for target groups and human service providers, to be derived from implementing the proposed project; and has described how the expected results and benefits will relate to previous demonstration efforts.